

Cemeteries
Around Carolina Trace

By John
Altenburger

with

Technical Director Sharwynne
Blatterman

Carolina Trace cemeteries explored by local historian

By **GORDON ANDERSON**

Herald Staff Writer

SANFORD — Cemeteries, as any historian worth his or her salt knows, are full of old ghosts. Finding those “ghosts” — and the stories they have to tell — can be a historian’s dream.

It can also lead to awards, as local history buff John Altenburger found out recently.

Altenburger was given the Willie Parker Peace History Book Award by the North Carolina Society of Historians in November for research he did while putting together a book about five cemeteries in Carolina Trace.

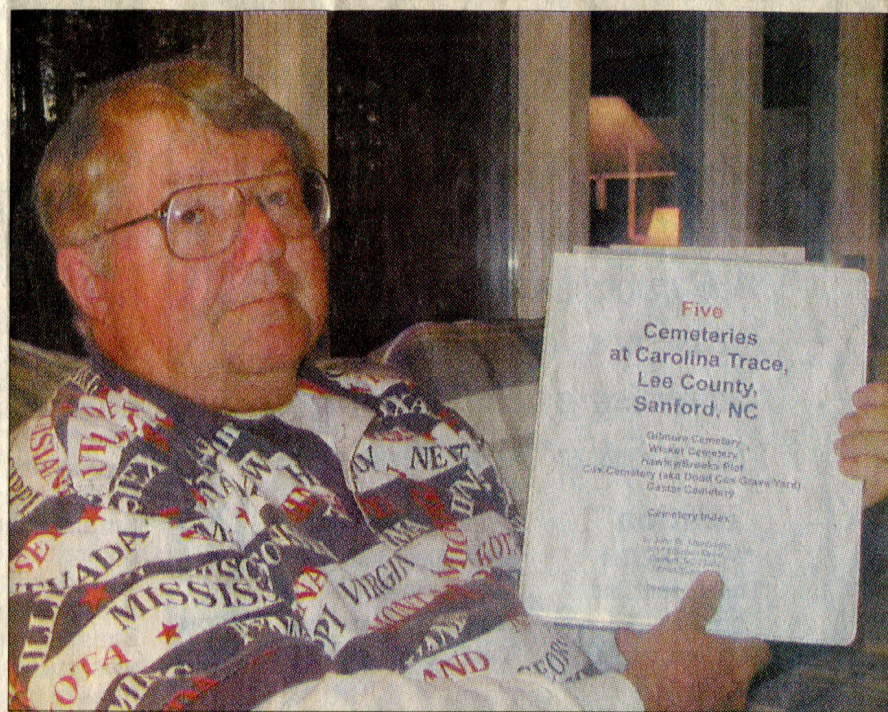
“I’ve been into genealogy for a long time,” Altenburger said. “And a real pain is going to a cemetery and looking and not knowing if anything is there or not.”

For that reason, Altenburger set out to make an index — what he called a “genealogist’s tool” — of who’s buried in five cemeteries within the boundaries of Carolina Trace.

The result was a ring-binder filled with computer-generated reproductions of each cemetery as well as an alphabetical index of the people who inhabit them.

Altenburger used skills he learned in two semesters at Central Carolina Community College’s drafting program to create his graphics. On each graphic is a representation of the location and shape of each stone in each cemetery. Further graphics provide what is written on each stone as well as other things in the cemeteries, such as foot markers and metal pegs on

See **TRACE** on **Page 12A**



HERALD PHOTO — GORDON ANDERSON

Local historian John Altenburger displays his prize-winning work, ‘Five Cemeteries at Carolina Trace, Lee County, Sanford, North Carolina.’ Altenburger used computer tools to make graphics and indices of each cemetery.

Trace

Continued from Pg. 1A

which to place pictures or flowers.

The book also contains maps of Carolina Trace, marking each cemetery's location. He used a mapping program provided by the Sanford Fire Department.

Altenburger's book was donated to the Lee County Public Library.

At the urging of the library Director Mike Matochik and local historian James Vann Comer, Altenburger sent a copy of the book to the North Carolina Society of Historians in April.

Later he found out he had won the award. The judges commented, "The author/researcher has utilized his computer skills to produce the most incredible work we have seen thus far as judges. The presentation is innovative and thrilling."

The five cemeteries Altenburger researched were the Gilmore Cemetery, the Wicker Cemetery, the Hawley-Brooks Cemetery, the Gaster Cemetery, and the Cox Cemetery, also known as the Dodd-Cox Graveyard.

Each cemetery varies in size and age.

The Gilmore Cemetery is in the middle of Carolina Trace's golf course. A small fenced in area a few feet off the second tee, it contains seven graves and dates back as far as 1912. The most recent burial there was in 1961.

The Wicker Cemetery is on a traffic island at Trace. It was used between 1916 and 1950.

The Cox Cemetery, which is also known as the Dodd-Cox Graveyard, is located on the eastern edge of Trace, in the forest about 125 yards off Cox Mill Road.

"It's not on a road," Altenburger said. "You have to know about this one."

Altenburger said he learned about the Cox Cemetery by reading a history of Carolina Trace. The cemetery dates back to 1873.

The least known burial area was the Hawley-Brooks Cemetery, Altenburger said. Not so much a cemetery as a family burial plot, only two people are buried there. It is deep in the woods and dates back to 1859.

"I was talking to a buddy of mine who knew it was back there," Altenburger said.

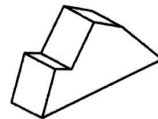
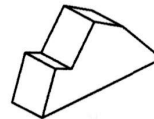
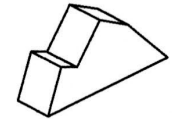
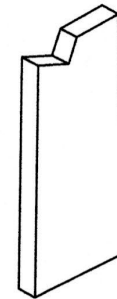
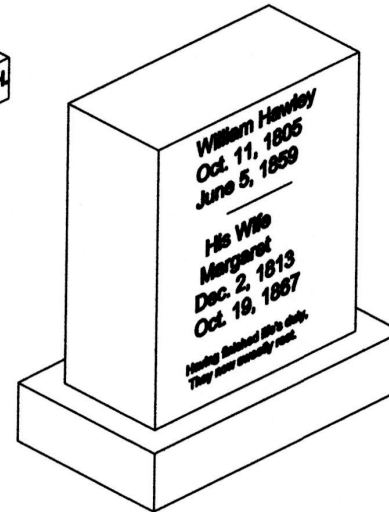
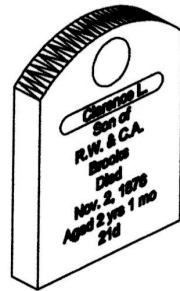
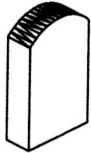
The biggest cemetery in the area is the Gaster Cemetery. It goes back as far as 1859 and can be seen from the main road.

Altenburger is passionate about not only history in general, but especially the history of this area.

"Cox, Wicker, Gaster. These are common names in Sanford. I teach at CCCC and my students have these names," Altenburger said. "And most of them don't know their own heritage. It's a shame."

Anyone interested in seeing Altenburger's work can view it at the Lee County library.

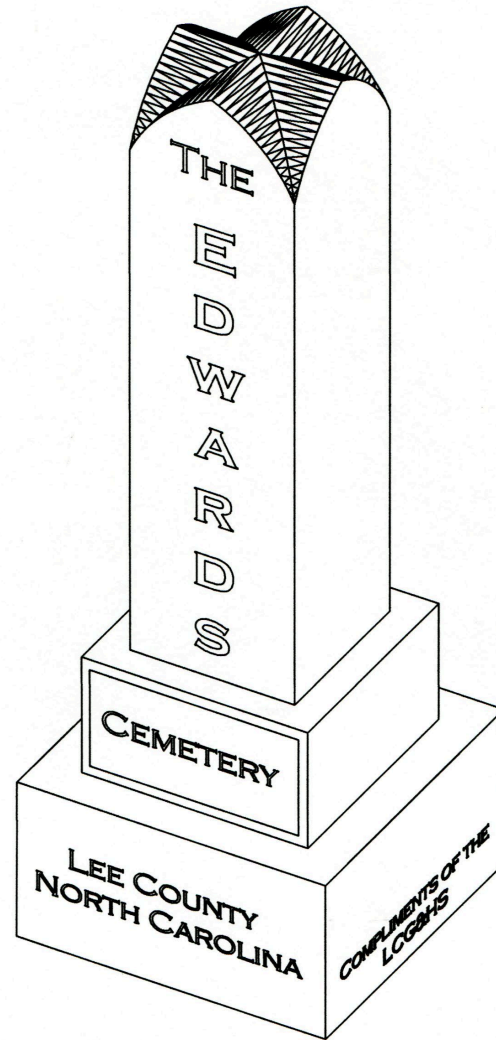
Hawley/Brooks Burial Plot
Carolina Trace
Off of the Lake 3 Course Fairway
in heavy woods. Indian Trail is the
closest road.



file-HawleyCemetery.dwg
John Altenburger 10/25/01
added raw stones as observed
with Bill Arnold 8/14/05,
added raw stones and
footstone as
observed 3-27-2009.

GPS Coordinates:
N 35° 25' 8.16"
W 79° 6' 46.44"

Note-The large tombstone is tipped and off the base.

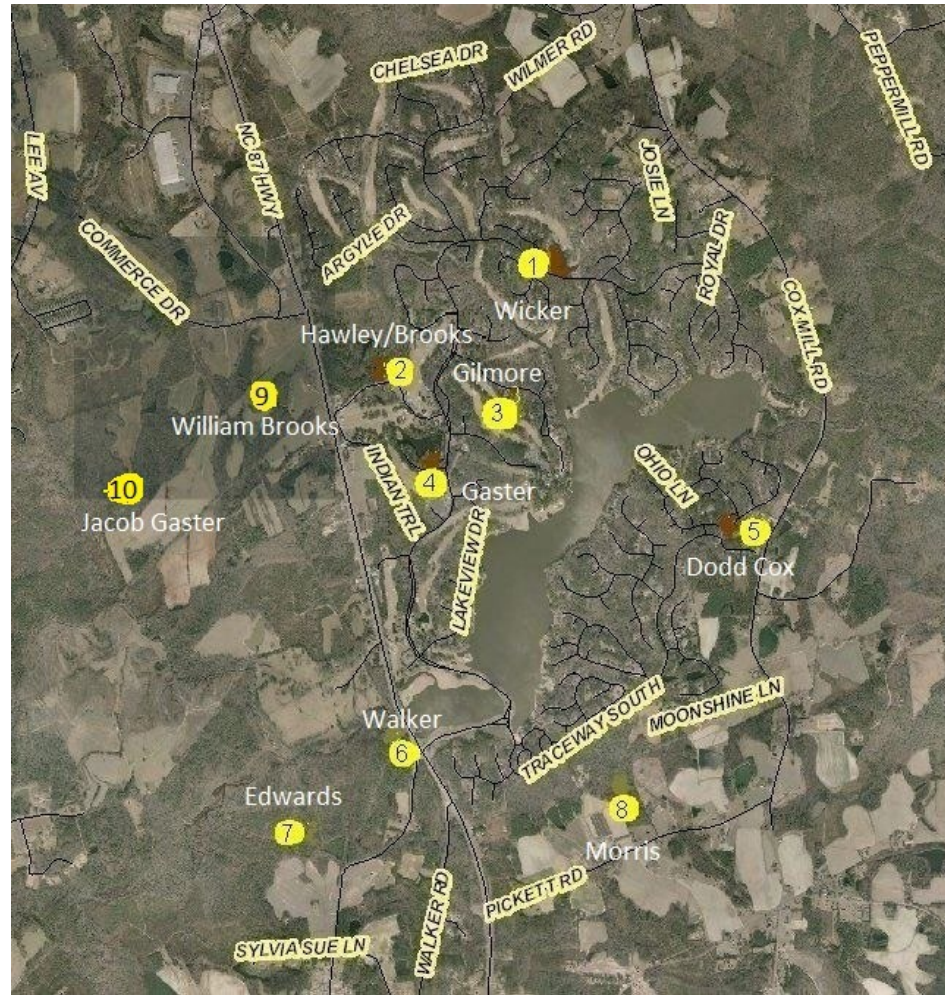


CONTRIBUTORS:
JOHN ALTENBURGER, BILL ARNOLD,
SANDRA CARTER, VAUGHN "BUDDY" CLARK,
EMORY SADLER, JUDY SHARPE, JOHN ALBERT
SHARPE, AND TIM SHEARER

JWA MARCH 2009
FILE- EDWARDS.DWG
Johnalt@juno.com

10 Cemeteries In and Around Carolina Trace

Prepared for Trace Women's Club January 13, 2017



1. Wicker Cemetery
2. Hawley Graveyard
3. Gilmore Cemetery
4. Gaster Cemetery
5. Dodd/Cox Cemetery
6. The Walker Cemetery
7. Edwards Cemetery
8. Morris Cemetery
9. Brooks Cemetery
10. Jacob Gaster original site, now buried at the Lee Co. Courthouse

Prepared by John Altenburger



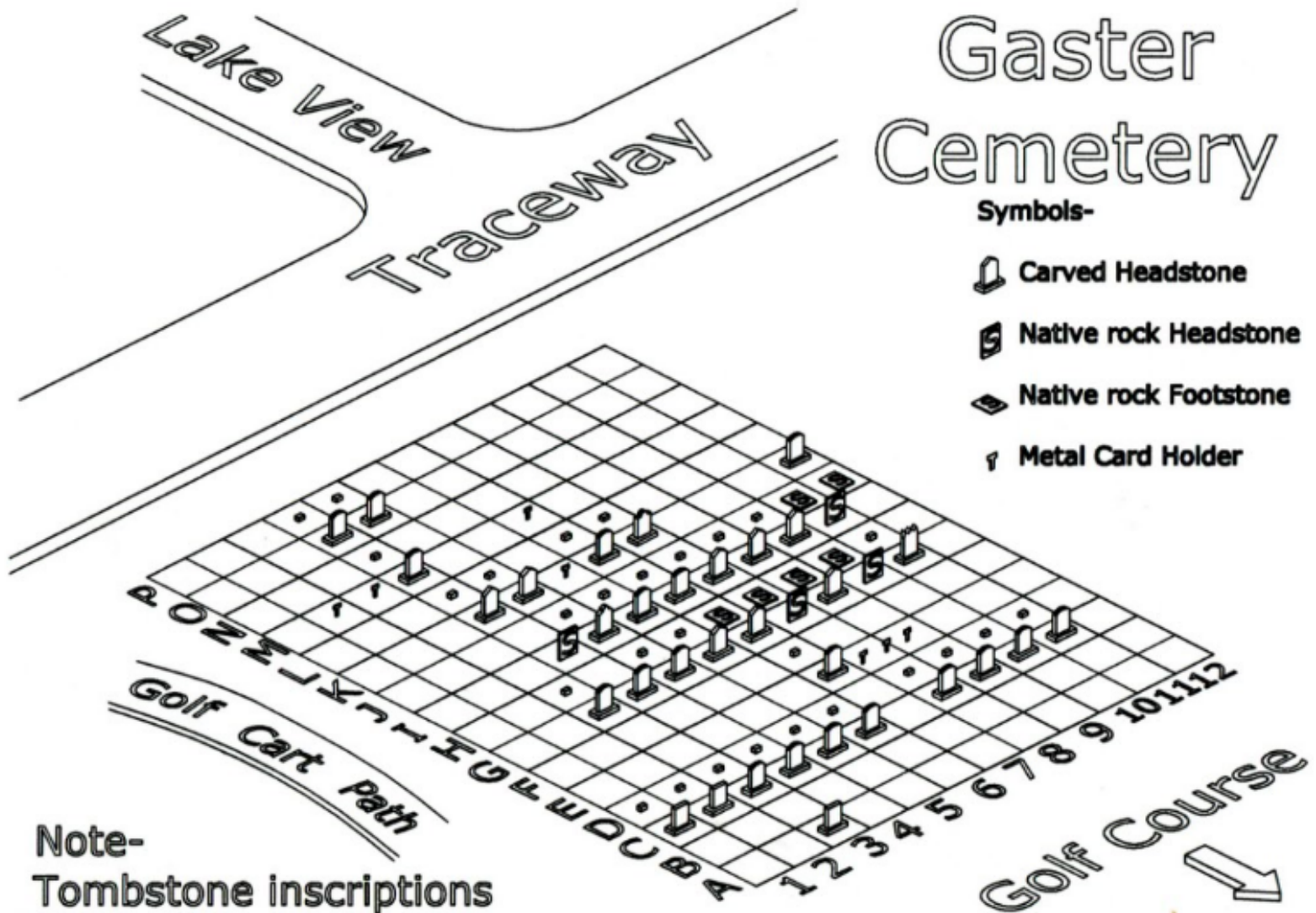




Gaster Cemetery

Symbols-

-  Carved Headstone
-  Native rock Headstone
-  Native rock Footstone
-  Metal Card Holder

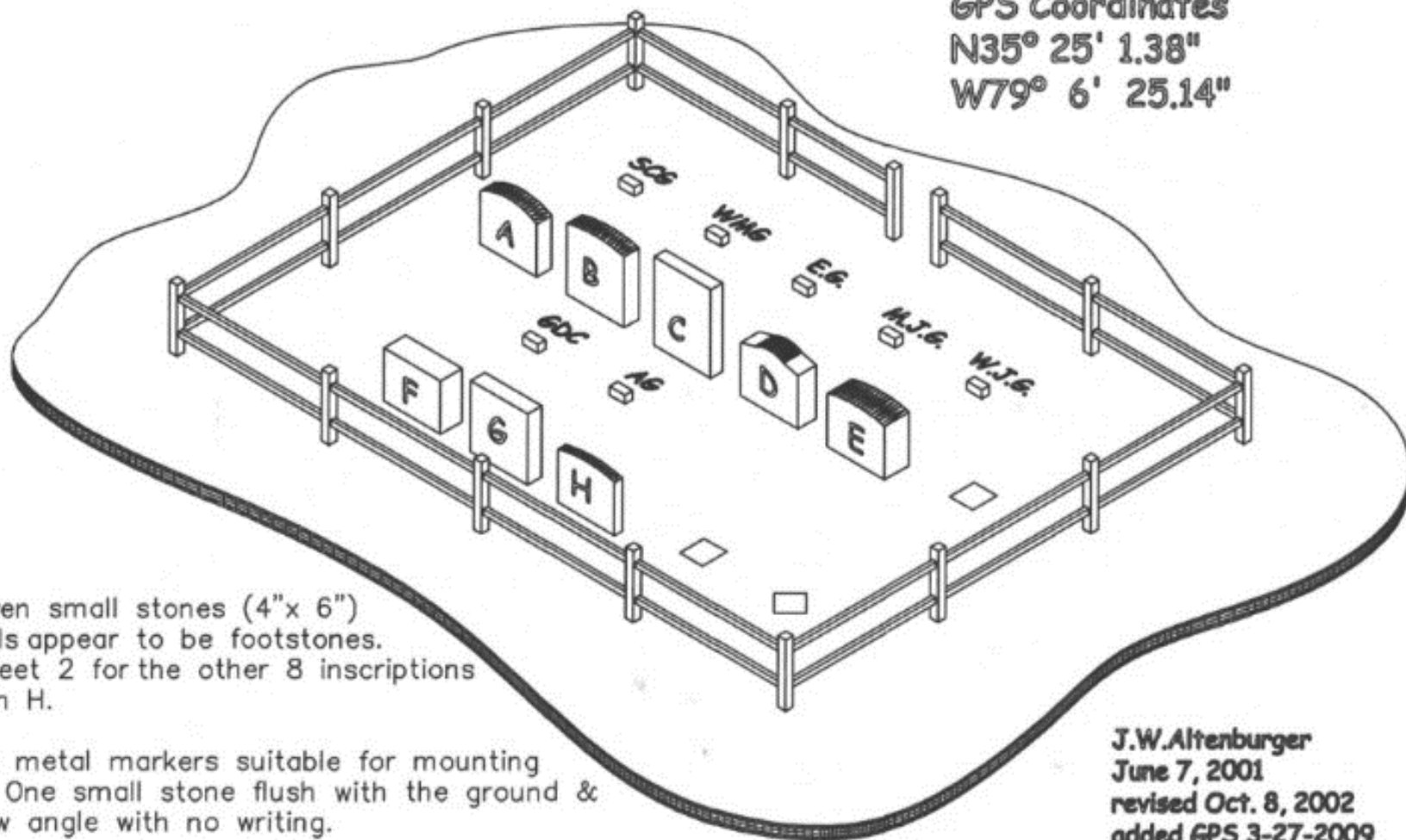


Note-
Tombstone inscriptions
shown on other sheets. Some
inscriptions could not be read,
others interpreted by Jack
Powell and John Altenburger

file-GasterCemetery.dwg
JWA 11-6-01

Gilmore Cemetery - Carolina Trace
at the Creek Course No. 2 tee
(about 40 feet x 30 feet)

GPS Coordinates
N35° 25' 1.38"
W79° 6' 25.14"



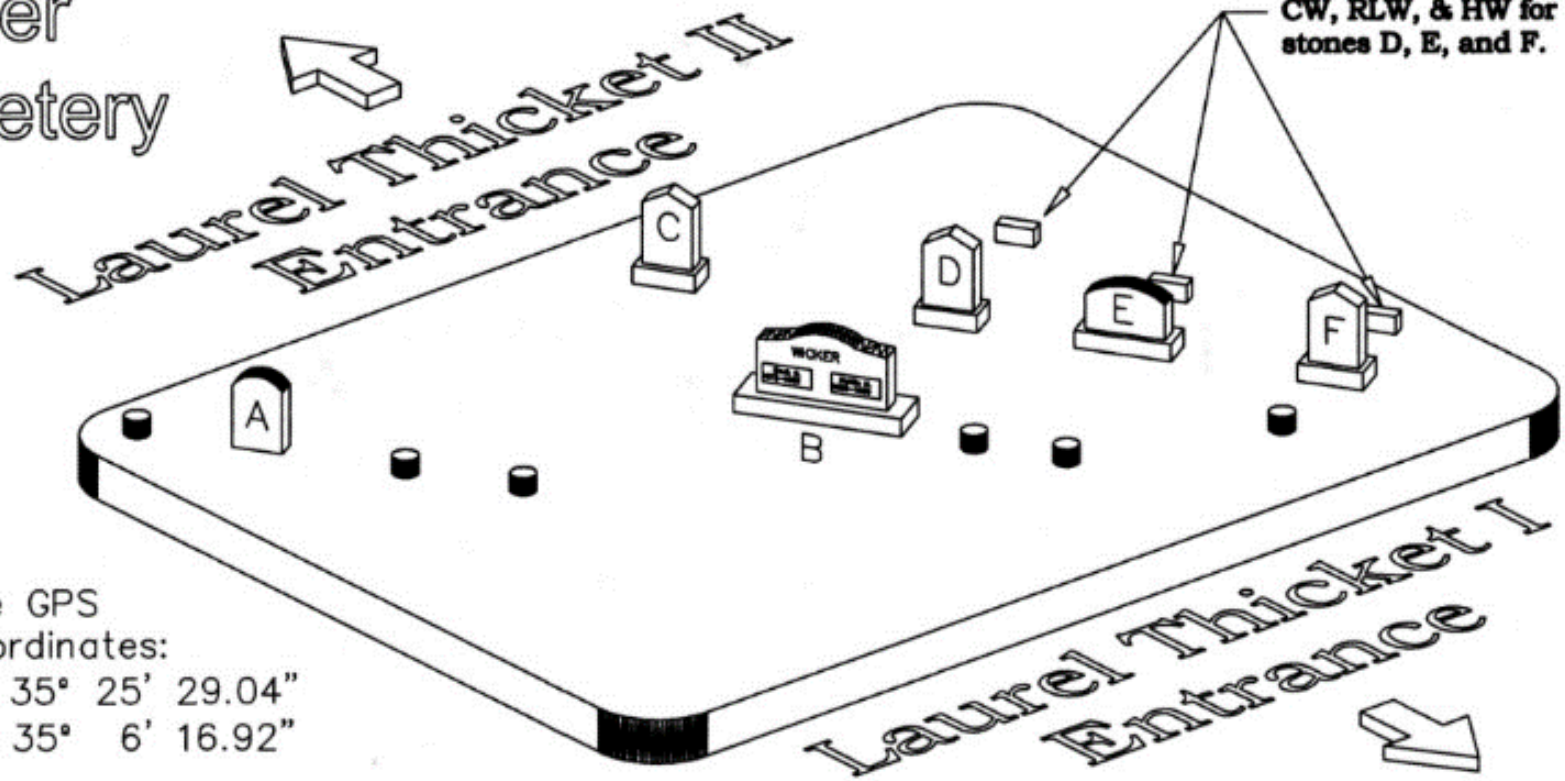
Note—seven small stones (4"x 6")
with initials appear to be footstones.
Check sheet 2 for the other 8 inscriptions
A through H.

Also, two metal markers suitable for mounting
a photo. One small stone flush with the ground &
at a skew angle with no writing.

J.W.Altenburger
June 7, 2001
revised Oct. 8, 2002
added GPS 3-27-2009



Wicker Cemetery



The GPS
Coordinates:
N 35° 25' 29.04"
W 35° 6' 16.92"

Note-

The sheet above will identify the inscriptions on tombstones

The 6 cylinders represent metal stands that might be for photographs or cards.

Oct. 16, 2001
John Altenburger
file-WickerCem.dwg
GPS added 3-27-2009

Some Touching Inscriptions

Hawley/Brooks

William Hawley 1805-1859 and wife Margaret 1813-1867

Having finished life's duty

They now sweetly rest

Gilmore

Son of John Gilmore 1910/1912

Darling we miss thee

Cox

Mattie E. H. McLeod 1861-1882

**Dearest Mother she has left me and my loss I deeply feel,
but 'tis GOD who has bereft me, he can all my sorrows heal.**

Gaster

Mary Leslie 1923-1923

**Sleep on sweet babe and take thy rest,
GOD called thee home, he thought it best**

Mary McNeill TBD-1932

Not my will but thine be done

Length of Activity in the Cemetery
(based on observed tombstones)

Gilmore
1912-1961

Wicker
1912-1950

Gaster
1853-1938

Hawley/Brooks
1859-1876

Dodd/Cox
1850-1907

Walker
1873-1923

Edwards
1878-1932

Morris
1874-1923

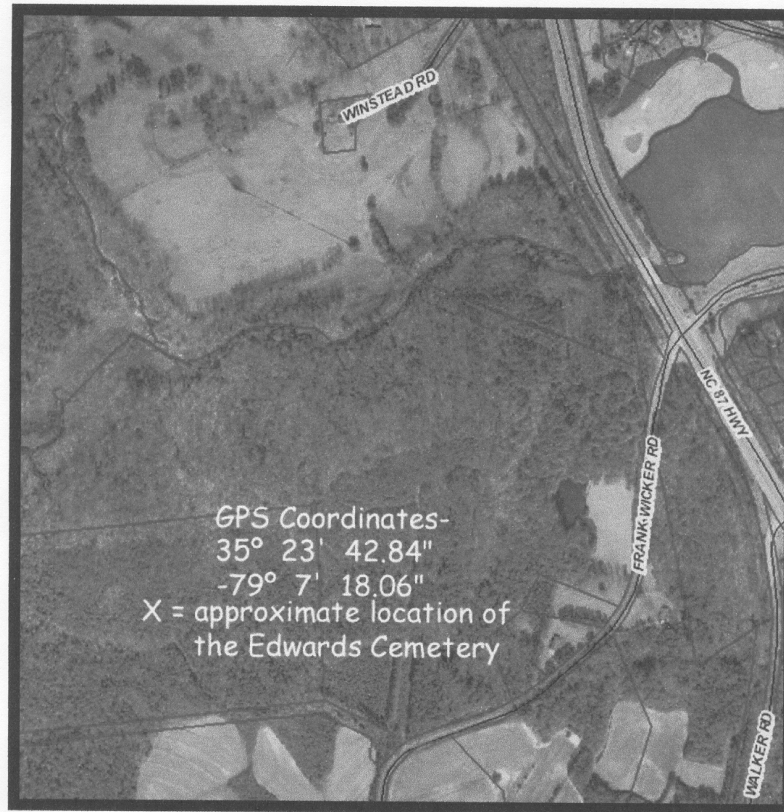
THE COX FAMILY
CEMETARY

ABOUT 1800 TO 1923 ALSO KNOWN AS THE
DODD COX GRAVEYARD









<u>Inscription name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Location Row and Column</u>
1 Edwards, Annie E. Parrish	Sept. 1, 1830	Nov. 6, 1913	w/o S. W. Edwards	7F
2 Edwards, Benjamin F.	June 13, 1859	Feb. 10, 1884	s/o S. W. and A. E. Edwards	7H
3 Edwards, Jennette	Dec. 17, 1819	Aug. 8, 1903		1G
4 Edwards, Spence W.	March 10, 1810	June 1, 1883		7G
5 McNeill, Elizabeth Gilmore	Jan. 18, 1884	Oct. 17, 1925	w/o Bright McNeill	1B
6 McNeill, Maggie A	Jun. 6, 1909	Oct. 31, 1914	d/o N. B. & N. E. McNeill	4A
7 McNeill, Mattie L.	Aug. 11, 1906	Aug. 21, 1906	d/o N. B. & N. I. McNeill	1E
8 McNeill, N. Bright	June 6, 1880	Sept. 23, 1932	h/o Elizabeth Gilmore McNeill	1A
9 McNeill, Sophia M.	Jan. 10, 1917	Jan. 11, 1917	d/o Bright & Elizabeth McNeill	3A
10 Stone, Fannie L.	Dec. 23, 1906	Jun. 19, 1908	d/o L. L. & L. L. Stone	3J
11 Stone, Nancy C. Edwards	May 3, 1842	Oct. 10, 1903	w/o J. M. Stone	3H
12 Stone, Virginia D.	Apr. 27, 1868	Dec. 15, 1878	d/o J. M. & N. G. Stone	3G
13 Edwards, Slaves (marker is about 12 yards north of main burial ground)				

DOWNY WIS



Below are all the readable tombstones on the Carolina Trace property of:
#1 Wicker, #3 Gilmore, and #4 Gaster cemeteries.

Gilmore Cemetery

Annie K. w/o J. B. Gilmore	died June 27, 1917
Elizabeth, w/o J. H. Gilmore	died Aug. 18, 1921
Gilmore, John B.	died Nov. 14, 1960
Gilmore, Mary Jane	died Sept. 23, 1941
Gilmore, Sara C.	died Apr. 27, 1932
Gilmore, Walter McLennan	died Dec. 5, 1920
Gilmore, William J.	died June 12, 1961
no name s/o J. B. & A. K. Gilmore	died Oct. 30, 1912

Wicker Cemetery

Hattie H. w/o Dock D. Wicker	died 1950
Wicker, Carson	died Feb. 27, ????
Wicker, Charles	died Sept. 25, 1911
Wicker, Dock D.,	died 1950
Wicker, Houle	died Feb 5, 1916
Wicker, Joe B.,	died April 6, 1939
Wicker, Rubie Lillie	died Oct. 26, 1910

Gaster et al Cemetery (readable & carved headstones only)

_____, w/o John G. Hunter	died Sep. 19, 1912
Addie, w/o J. D. Hunter	died 1927
Clark, D. V.	died May 10, 1930
Elizabeth, w/o Sanford Brannon	died Aug 20, 1900
Famey, w/o John Gaster	died Aug. 18, 1853
Fannie E. w/o D. V. Clark	died May 26, 1926
Gaster Jemima Jane	died Feb 10, 1924
Gaster, A. J.	died Dec. 16, 1855
Gaster, Christopher Columbus s/o John M. & M. M. Gaster	died Jan. 21, 1887
Gaster, David	died Oct. 28, 1882
Gaster, Gertrude d/o J. F. & Mattie Gaster	died Dec. 6, 1905
Gaster, Jacob	died Dec. 16, 1855
Gaster, Jemima	died ????
Gaster, John M.	died Jan 1, 1912
Gaster, Lizzie Chrisman d/o D. S. & Lottie Gaster	died Dec. 28, 1900
Gaster, Margaret Elizabeth	died Feb. 11, 1924
Gaster, Mary Dalrymple	died Feb. 7, 1926
Gilmore, Mary Lessie d/o D. D. & B. M. Gilmore	died Jan. 26, 1923
Hunter, Jno	died Nov. 22, 1888
Hunter, John D.	died Sept. 11, 1917
Hunter, Sophire Hill d/o J. G. & A. S. Hunter	died Feb. 20, 1914
India G. w/o John M. F. Gaster	died Jan. 18, 1898
Infant d/o D. V. & E. F. Clark	died Sept. 18, 1888
Mary E. w/o?	died June 21, 1889
Mary E. w/o J. McGilmore	died June 4, 1927
Mary G. w/o David McNeill	died Jan. 2, 1932
Mary M. w/o John M. Gaster	died Sept. 29, 1899
McGilmore, J	died Oct. 13, 1938
McNeill, David	died ????
Mitchell, B. C.	died May 16, 1910
Williams, Henry B.	died Apr. 28, 1906
Williams, James H.	died 1919

4017 Traveller Lane
Sanford, NC 27330
September 13, 1995

Greens Keepers
Carolina Trace
Sanford, NC 27330

Dear Mr. Joyce

and others whom it may concern,

As a representative of the family members who are buried in the cemetery just off Fairway, i.e. Will Gilmore, Elizabeth Gilmore and others, I would like to give my permission for you to clean it up.

When I was a child I helped to clean the cemetery with Mr. Gilmore. Out of respect for him and his desire to have the grave sites kept up, I would encourage you to do whatever is necessary to make the area easy on the eye. Sincerely,

Patricia Pemberton

TO: DICK JOYCE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF GOVERNORS
CAROLINA TRACE COUNTRY CLUB

FROM: FRAN WATSON *FW*

DATE: SEPTEMBER 14, 1995

RE: CAROLINA TRACE CEMETERIES

Attached is the long-awaited letter to dispel any family complaints as to the cleanup of the grave sites in Carolina Trace. Should you ever receive a complaint from the family, Patricia asked that she be contacted and she will take care of it.

Patricia knows Mr. Yow, an elderly gentleman who has dug most of the graves in Lee County and would be most helpful with advice on such things as straightening tombstones. In the site near Lake 2 tee area, one grave is sunken and Patricia told us it was due to the fact the body was buried in a wooden box which has deteriorated and the area has dropped.

Patricia has many memories of the area such as playing tag with her brother around the old oak trees. She tells interesting stories about the stills and Mr. Gilmore's favorite pastime. She also remembers setting on the front porch of Mr. Gilmore's house and how he took special pride in keeping his Mother's grave beautiful with flowers.

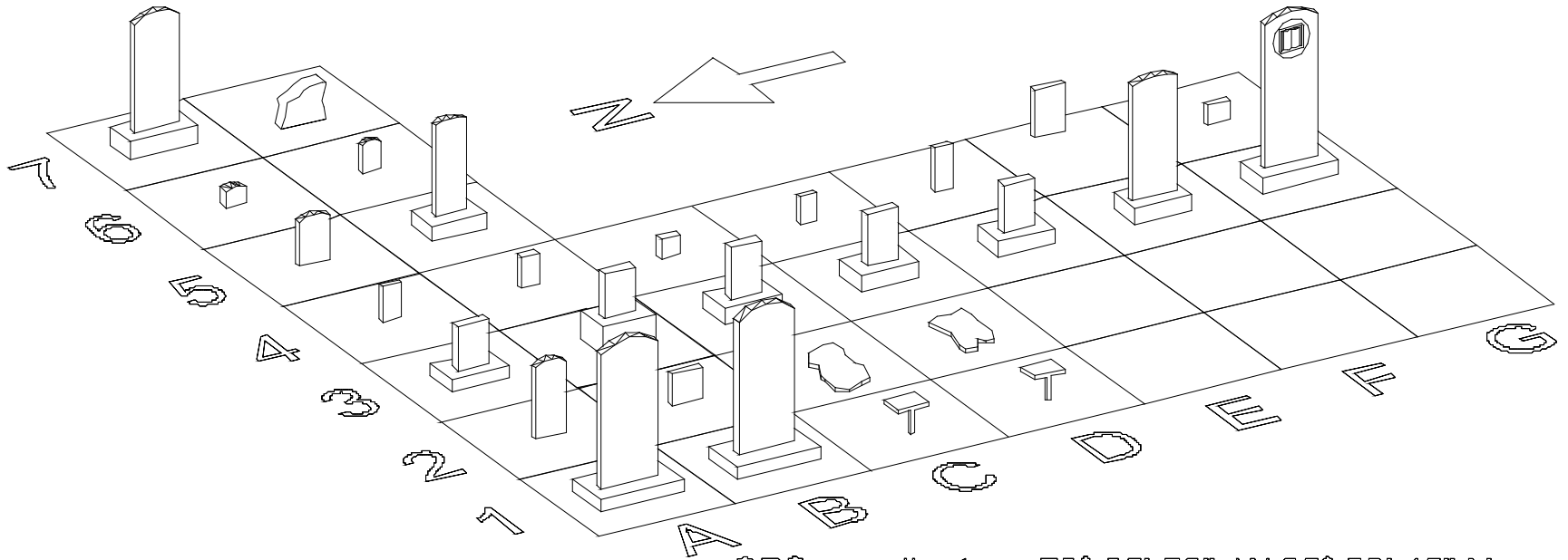
I would urge you to meet Patricia and enjoy her background with Carolina Trace. She is a recently retired English teacher from Sanford High School and a delightful, down-to-earth person.

I also wish you much success in making that which I perceived to be a most neglected eyesore for the past 5 years into an area of historical interest, beauty and respect. The cleanup that has recently been done is a wonderful start.

Copies: Mary Straub
Carolina Trace Woman's Club and Garden Club

Mickey McCord
Carolina Trace Golf Course Superintendent

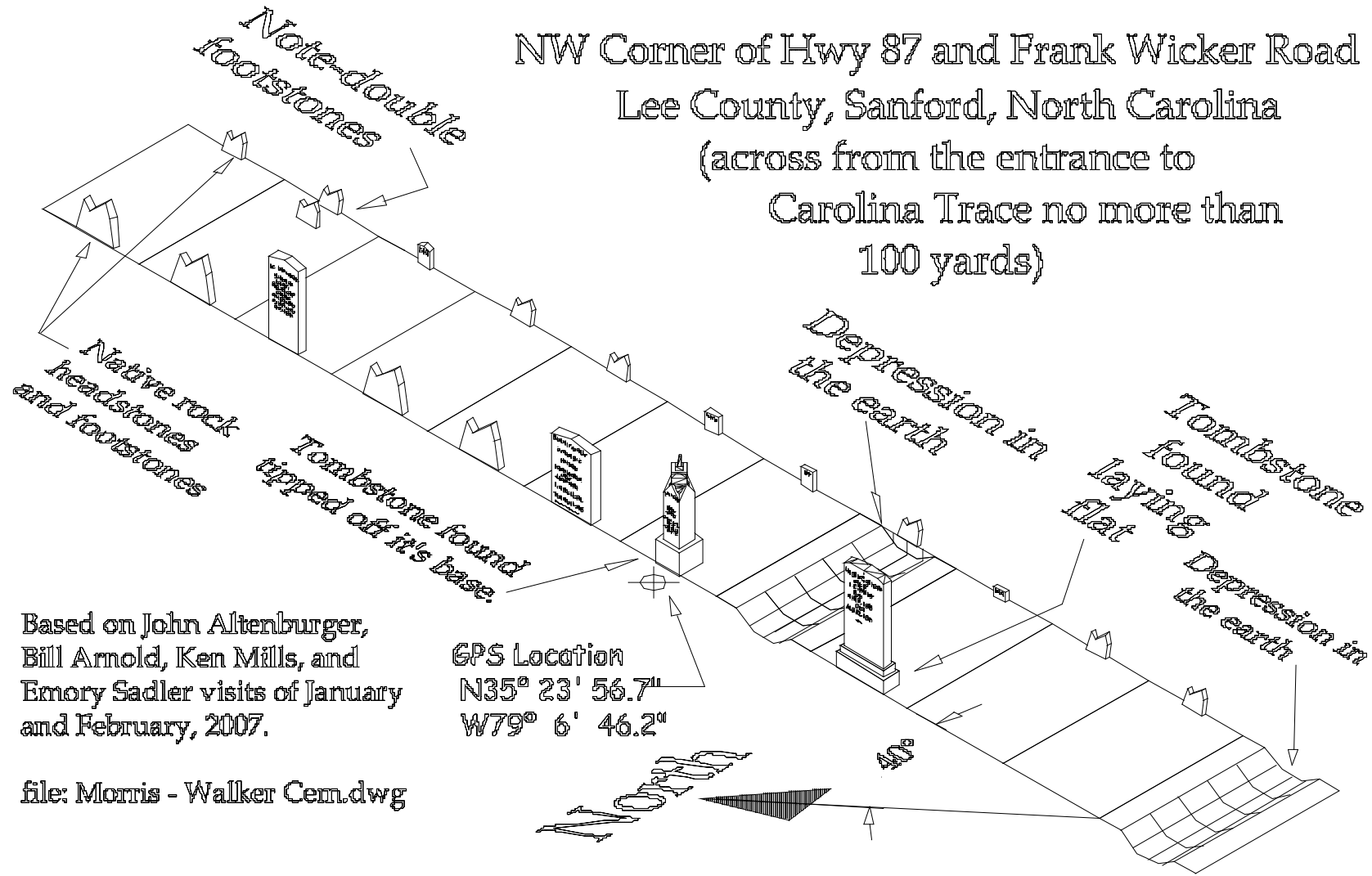
Morris Cemetery on Pickett Road
behind Duncan H. McLeod Homeplace



GPS coordinates: 79° 05' 56" W 35° 23' 45" N

Morris and Walker Burial Site in Woods

NW Corner of Hwy 87 and Frank Wicker Road
Lee County, Sanford, North Carolina
(across from the entrance to
Carolina Trace no more than
100 yards)

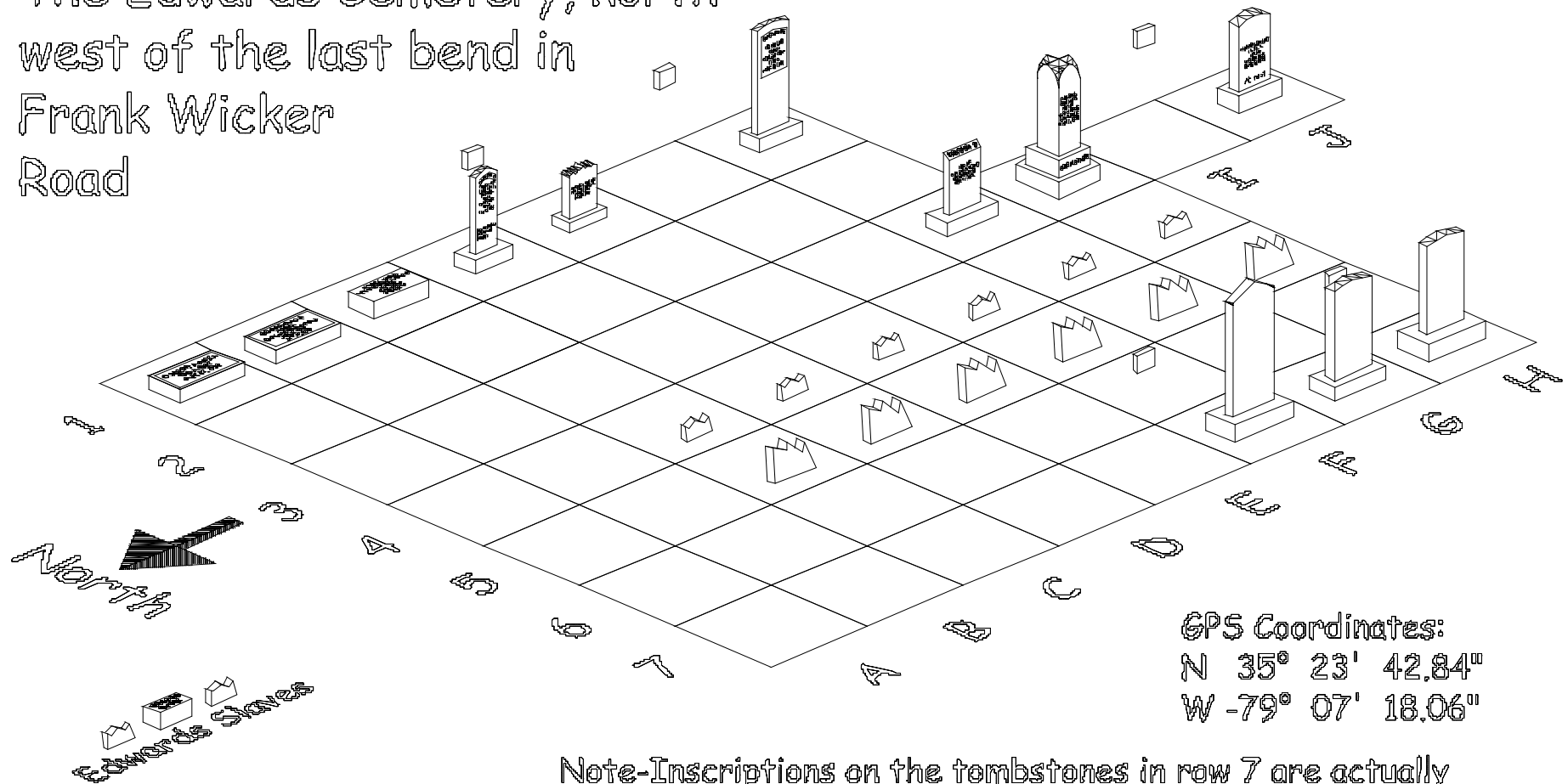


Based on John Altenburger,
Bill Arnold, Ken Mills, and
Emory Sadler visits of January
and February, 2007.

GPS Location
N35° 23' 56.7"
W79° 6' 46.2"



file: Morris - Walker Cem.dwg

The Edwards Cemetery, north west of the last bend in Frank Wicker Road



GPS Coordinates:
 N 35° 23' 42.84"
 W -79° 07' 18.06"

Note-Inscriptions on the tombstones in row 7 are actually on the east side of the markers. The other rows are as shown.

Note:  = small native rock and  = larger native rock

Thanks for
Your time
And Patience